



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION IX  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

SFUND RECORDS CTR  
46030

In Reply  
Use Mail Code WTR-6  
July 2, 1998

Dear Tribal Leader,

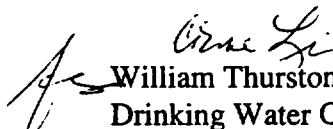
Enclosed is a copy of testing results from June 1998 sampling for perchlorate in the Colorado River and from public water supply wells located adjacent to the river, which EPA considered vulnerable to perchlorate contamination. EPA arranged for the sampling and testing with the assistance of the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the California Department of Health Services (DHS).

This testing was completed to provide Tribal populations, the IHS, EPA and other stakeholders with baseline data to help assess the extent and impact of perchlorate contamination in the Colorado River from Lake Mead to the Mexican Border. The sampling sites were selected from Tribal reservations where public water supplies were drawn from wells closest to the river and possibly recharged at least partially from the river.

The results all fall within the expected range when compared to results obtained last year. "In July 1997, monitoring of surface water sources in southern California showed perchlorate at low levels (5 to 9 ppb) in Colorado River water..." (source: California DHS website, <http://WWW.DHS.CAHWNET.GOV/org/ps/ddwem/chemicals/perchl/perchlindex.htm>). These most recent results also correlate with independent testing done by the Chemehuevi tribe in August 1997 which showed 6.7 ppb perchlorate in the river adjacent to their lands and was non-detect (<1 ppb) in their public water system supply wells. Furthermore, all of these results fall below the interim health standard of 18 ppb, adopted as an interim action level for drinking water by the State of California and as a provisional reference dose for drinking water by the EPA, pending further scientific study.

The conclusion we may make in light of these results is that while the perchlorate levels do not pose a health risk at this time, a water quality monitoring program may need to be implemented to monitor the perchlorate levels in the Colorado River downstream from Lake Mead. If you have questions regarding these results, please call Karl Banks at 415-744-1849.

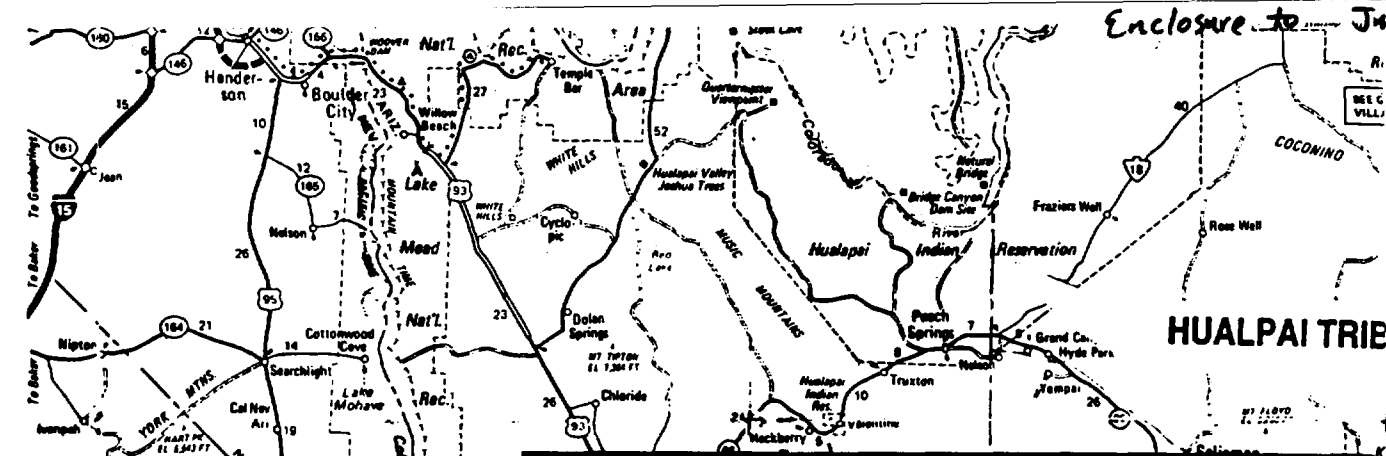
Sincerely,

  
William Thurston, Chief  
Drinking Water Office

Enclosure

cc: Arizona Department of Environmental Quality  
California Department of Health Services  
Nevada Department of Human Resources  
Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Enclosure to July 2, 1998 Letter



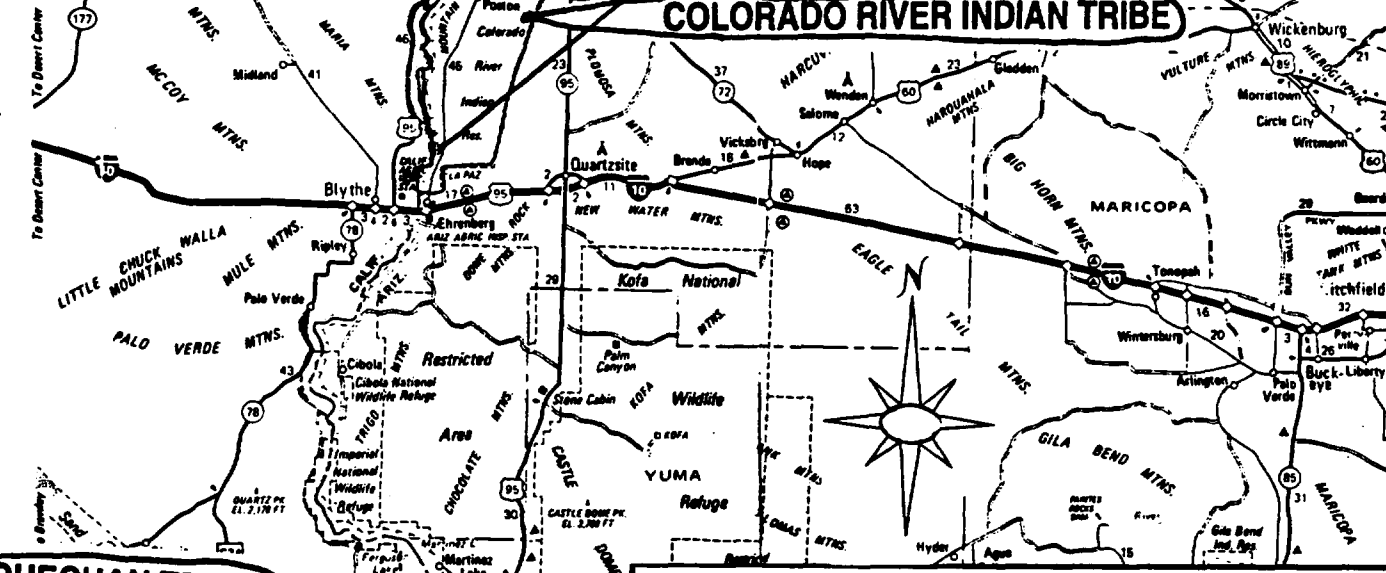
**Perchlorate Analysis Method CA DHS-IC**

Sample No.	Sample Location	Sample Type	Detection limit = 5 ppb Result (ppb)	Sample Date
1	Avi Casino Dock	River	9.5	6/17/98
2	Avi Casino Well	Well	<5	6/17/98
3	Curcio Well	Well	<5	6/17/98

**Perchlorate Analysis Method CA DHS-IC**

Sample No.	Sample Location	Sample Type	Detection limit = 5 ppb Result (ppb)	Sample Date
4	CRIT Regional Well #1	Well	<5*	6/10/98
5	CRIT Regional Well #2	Well	<5	6/10/98
6	CRIT Regional Well #3	Well	<5	6/10/98
7	CRIT Regional Well #4	Well	<5	6/10/98
8	Big River Well #6	Well	6.7	6/10/98
9	Big River Well #8	Well	<5	6/10/98
10	Red Rooster Well	Well	<5	6/10/98
11	Blue Water Lagoon	River	8.9	6/10/98

\*Detected, but not quantitated.



**Perchlorate Analysis Method CA DHS-IC**

Sample No.	Sample Location	Sample Type	Detection limit = 5 ppb Result (ppb)	Sample Date
12	Cocopah Bend RV	Well	<5	6/11/98
13	Andrade Border Station	Well	<5	6/11/98
14	Midway of Cable Way	River	<5*	6/11/98

\*Detected, but not quantitated.